UNIT 1 Strange & Unusual

Reading 1 Ghost Detectives

Ghost Detectives

Dale Kaczmarek believes in ghosts, and he has been the president of the Ghost Research Society since 1982. In his career, Kaczmarek has met many people who think that the subject of his research (A) [does not exist / is not existed]. When they find out that he studies ghosts, they consider him a fool. So one of Kaczmarek's goals is to make ghost research more (B) [scientifically / scientific]. Not everyone believes in ghosts, but most people trust science.

Kaczmarek follows a careful process to investigate ghosts. The process is initiated when someone telephones Kaczmarek about bizarre things (C) [happened / happening] in their home. These may include the sound of a voice in an empty room, a sudden coldness in the air, or even a strange smell.

1. Choose the grammatically correct words.

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	does not exist	scientific	happening
②	is not existed	scientifically	happening
③	does not exist	scientifically	happened
④	does not exist	scientific	happened
⑤	is not existed	scientific	happened

2. What is true, according to the passage?

① People show trust in science, but no one believes in ghosts.

② Kaczmarek thinks people who don't believe in ghosts are foolish.

③ Kaczmarek experienced a ghost through a bizarre thing that happened in his house.

④ Kazmarek prefers face-to-face counseling to telephone counseling with customers.

⑤ Clients report the existence of ghosts in various forms.

ⓐ [While / During] the first phone call, Kaczmarek has a preliminary interview with the caller to determine whether it is a serious case or not.

(A) If he decides to accept the case, Kaczmarek asks the client what he or she wants him to do. Some people just want him to find out if paranormal activity is the cause of the strange events, while others want him to remove a ghost from their house.

(B) After a thorough inspection of the location, the team talks to the homeowner, and they ⓑ [explain / explain about] what they have observed. Waiting until this time to share the details, Kaczmarek says, ⓒ [making / makes] his method of investigation reliable.

(C) After the phone call, Kaczmarek contacts other members of the Ghost Research Society and forms a team. They visit the client's house, but Kaczmarek never tells the team members any details about the case. This is very important for keeping the investigation objective; if the team members knew the details, they might imagine something that wasn't there.

3. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?

① (C)-(B)-(A)
② (A)-(C)-(B)
③ (B)-(A)-(C)
④ (B)-(C)-(A)
⑤ (C)-(A)-(B)

4. Choose the grammatically correct words.

	ⓐ	ⓑ	ⓒ
①	During	explain	makes
②	During	explain about	making
③	While	explain	makes
④	While	explain	making
⑤	While	explain about	makes

5. What is most likely the topic of the passage?

① Borderline between science and superstition
② Evidence about the existence of ghosts in a real world
③ How to make ghost investigations scientific
④ Science and psychology about ghosts
⑤ Truths proven through thorough inspection

Kaczmarek shares his expertise on ghosts by writing books and giving tours of haunted places. He published a book called Windy City Ghosts about ghosts in Chicago. One of the stories in this book ① is about ghost horses and their ghost riders. People sometimes see these ghosts on 95th Street—a busy road in Chicago's South Side that ② runs through a forest near some stables. When people ride horses from the stables into the forest, they must cross 95th Street. Over the years, there have been several accidents ③ in which horses and riders were killed by fast-moving cars. Sometimes at night, people driving through the forest report ④ seeing ghostly horses and riders crossing the street. They stop their cars to let the horses and riders ⑤ passing, but when they look closely, the horses and riders have disappeared! All of these reports have come from the area where the horse trail crosses 95th Street.

Kaczmarek gives tours of this location and tries to explain the world of ghost research to his guests. Through his books, tours, and the scientific process of his investigations, Kaczmarek hopes to improve the _____ of ghost researchers.

6. Which of the underlined ①~⑤ is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

7. Choose the word that best fits in the blank.

① popularity ② confidence
③ reputation ④ compensation
⑤ ability

8. What is true, according to the passage?

① Kazmarek's book contains only rumors about ghosts.
② People used to see drivers killed in car accidents on 95th Street.
③ There have been several car accidents due to ghosts on 95th Street.
④ People used to see horses and riders passing on 95th Street.
⑤ Kazmarek is making various efforts to inform the public about ghost research.

Bloody Mary

Go into a room with a mirror. Turn off all the lights. Light a candle, look into the mirror, and start chanting, “Bloody Mary.” Say this spooky phrase thirteen times, and the image of Bloody Mary will (A) [be appeared / appear] in the mirror! She will be standing behind you, over your left shoulder!

But beware: Bloody Mary has surprises waiting for those who call her. She sometimes kills the person. Other times, she scratches out his or her eyes. She can drive the person crazy. Sometimes she grabs people and pulls them into the mirror with her!

The urban legend of Bloody Mary has been around for generations. Schoolchildren all around the world have (B) [entered / entered into] dark bathrooms to try this game. Many run away in fright as they say “Bloody Mary” for the thirteenth time.

In 1978, folklorist Janet Langlois became interested in the Bloody Mary legend. At that time, the legend was already widespread in the United States. Langlois visited a Catholic girls’ school and interviewed eighty students. She compared their stories and determined that the story of Bloody Mary might come from an old legend about the crying ghost of a woman who eternally searches for her murdered children. However, no one really knows who Mary (C) [may have been / may be].

The Bloody Mary legend is renewed with each generation of daring adolescents. Generations from now, schoolchildren will probably still be scaring themselves with this timeless, terrifying legend.

9. Choose the grammatically correct words.

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	appear	entered	may be
②	be appeared	entered	may be
③	appear	entered into	may have been
④	be appeared	entered into	may have been
⑤	appear	entered	may have been

10. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① The Bloody Mary game is to call her name in a candle lit in a room with a mirror.

② According to Bloody Mary legend, she can kill or harm the person who called her.

③ Bloody Mary turned out to be the ghost of a woman looking for her child who died unjustly.

④ Bloody Mary games are played all over the world.

⑤ Bloody Mary legend is unlikely to disappear easily in the future.

Reading 2 The Laughter Epidemic

The Laughter Epidemic

Have you ever started laughing and then couldn't stop? Most of us have experienced this when we found something really funny; everyone knows that laughter can be infectious. But the famous case of uncontrollable laughter in Tanzania wasn't really funny at all.

(A) Eventually, so many kids were laughing that teachers, who were immune for some reason, couldn't conduct lessons. By March 18, the school had to close, and the students were sent home.

(B) The problem was that the laughter didn't stop—it kept spreading and continued for weeks. More than half of the school's 159 students, aged between twelve and eighteen, were affected.

(C) It all started on January 30, 1962, at a girls' boarding school in the village of Kashasha. Three girls started laughing—for unclear reasons—and the laughter spread to their classmates.

11. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?

① (B)-(A)-(C)
② (A)-(C)-(B)
③ (C)-(A)-(B)
④ (C)-(B)-(A)
⑤ (B)-(C)-(A)

12. What is most likely the title of the passage?

① What Caused the Laughing Epidemic?
② Why Laughter Makes No Sense
③ The Humor Code: Common for All
④ Something in Common between Yawning and Laughing
⑤ Tanzania Laughter Epidemic Was No Joke

The laughter was not (A) [continual / continuous]. People can only laugh for about twenty seconds at a time since laughter is actually very (B) [relaxing / tiring] for the abdominal muscles as well as the respiratory system. Victims of the laughter epidemic would laugh for a while, seem to get better, and then begin laughing again. They also showed several other symptoms, including crying, fainting, and even skin rashes. For each victim, symptoms lasted from a few hours to about two weeks. The laughers were not (C) [enjoying / bothering] themselves. In fact, they were in pain and unable to go about their normal daily activities.

13. Choose the correct words for (A), (B), and (C).

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	continuous	relaxing	bothering
②	continuous	tiring	bothering
③	continual	relaxing	enjoying
④	continuous	tiring	enjoying
⑤	continual	tiring	bothering

14. What is most likely the title of the passage?

① The Side Effects of Laughter
② The Cause of Hysterical Laughter
③ The Effects of Laughter
④ Laughter: Not Always Positive
⑤ Things That Trigger Laughter

When the girls left school and went home, they began ① spreading the epidemic to the rest of Kashasha and beyond. In June and July, two more villages were "infected." The outbreak then spread to ② another parts of the country. Incredibly, the laughter epidemic lasted somewhere between six months and a year, and may even ③ have affected people in the neighboring countries of Uganda and Kenya. In all, fourteen schools had to be closed, and victims ④ numbered over 1,000. The victims were all children or young adults and included members of both sexes. Then suddenly, the strange infectious laughter stopped as mysteriously as it ⑤ had started.

15. Which of the following is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

16. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① Since their school closure, girls were forced to stay home.

② The outbreak spread to other communities and beyond national boundaries.

③ The laughter epidemic lasted more than a half year.

④ Strangely, the epidemic infected only one type of single gender victims.

⑤ The yearlong plague of the giggles victimized thousands of residents in the African villages.

What would cause such an odd phenomenon? Physicians could find no medical reason for it; tests of the schools and the food eaten by victims showed nothing unusual. ① Most experts who have studied the (A) [incident / accident] call it a case of mass hysteria, or Mass Psychogenic Illness (MPI). ② "Mass" means "affecting many people," and "psychogenic" means "having a psychological cause." Stress is often mentioned as the most likely reason for MPI. ③ According to this theory, the young people were extremely stressed both by academic pressures and by major changes in Tanzania, which had just become (B) [dependent / independent] from Britain. ④ No one has ever really been able to explain why the epidemic started when it did, why it (C) [affected / effected] only young people, or why it ended. ⑤

17. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?

This is just a guess, however. MPI is more of a label than an explanation, and we do not really understand it yet.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

18. Choose the correct words for (A), (B), and (C).

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	incident	independent	effected
②	incident	dependent	affected
③	accident	independent	effected
④	accident	dependent	affected
⑤	incident	independent	affected

The Dancing Plague of 1518

In July 1518, a woman in Strasbourg, France, started to dance in the street for no reason. There was no music playing, and she did not seem to be happy, but she continued ⓐ dancing for days.

A week later, thirty of her neighbors ⓑ had joined her, feeling the same mysterious need to dance without stopping. After a month, the number of people ⓒ affected had reached 400. The dancers were so out of control that some of them had heart attacks or developed other serious health problems. Several of them danced until they died!

(①) Feeling afraid and helpless, the citizens of Strasbourg called in doctors and government officials for help. For reasons that don't make much sense to us today, these officials believed that the only cure for the "dancing plague" was more dancing. (②) They even built a stage and hired professional dancers to join in. Sometime in early September, the epidemic finally came to an end.

Modern historians disagree about how to explain the event. (③) This is a special mental state ⓓ which you are neither asleep nor completely awake in the normal sense. (④) Scientists don't fully understand trance states, but they seem to occur more often in people who believe in spirits and in those who are under extreme stress. (⑤) The people of Strasbourg believed that a saint named St. Vitus had the power to take control of their minds, and they were also ⓔ suffering from hunger and disease.

Whatever caused the dancing plague of 1518, it shows how little we still understand about the human mind.

19. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?

<u>But it seems likely that the dancers were in a trance state.</u>

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

20. Which of the underlined ⓐ~ⓔ is grammatically incorrect?

① ⓐ

② ⓑ

③ ⓒ

④ ⓓ

⑤ ⓔ

Answer Key

1. ①

2. ⑤

3. ②

4. ①

5. ③

6. ⑤

7. ③

8. ⑤

9. ⑤

10. ③

11. ④

12. ⑤

13. ④

14. ④

15. ②

16. ④

17. ④

18. ⑤

19. ③

20 . ④